

(d) the steps taken to increase vegetable production in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The per capita availability of vegetables in the country is 190 grams per day against the ideal requirement of 280 grams per day.

(b) The area covered under vegetable cultivation in the country is 6.76 million hectares during 2004-05. No estimates have been made to bring more areas of land under vegetable cultivation in the country.

(c) No, Sir. Out of the net cultivable land of 97.23 lakh hectares, the estimated area under vegetable cultivation in Gujarat State is 3.80 lakh hectares.

(d) Following steps have been taken to increase vegetable production in Gujarat:—

- (i) Promotion of high yielding hybrids of vegetables and use of better quality seeds of vegetables.
- (ii) Upgradation of technical knowledge of high yielding varieties and adoption of innovative package of practices of vegetable crops among the farmers.
- (iii) Adoption of Integrated Pest Management, Integrated Nutrient Management and Organic Farming in vegetables.
- (iv) Promotion of vegetable cultivation in potential tribal areas.

Suicide in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh

†2584. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who had to commit suicide in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra owing to damage of crops, indebtedness and drought, etc. during the last three years particularly from April, 2006 to October, 2006;

(b) the details of the assistance provided by Government to the families of the deceased farmers;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the names of the deceased farmers out of them who had the crop insurance and other insurance;

(d) the details of the measures adopted to ensure that this kind of tragedy is not repeated in future; and

(e) the details of grants released by the Centre as well as State Governments alongwith the details of expenditure thereof till October, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The information is given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(b) The State Governments of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are giving Rs. one lakh and the State Government of Kerala Rs. 50,000/- in all eligible cases to the family of the deceased farmers. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is also providing Rs. 50,000/- towards liquidation of farm debt.

(c) The information is being obtained and shall be laid on the Table of the House

(d) The Government of India has taken several initiatives in this regard. A comprehensive credit policy was announced by the Government on 18th June, 2004 containing measures for doubling of agricultural credit flow in next three years and provision of debt relief to farmers. The Government has in the Union Budget (2006-07) decided to ensure that the farmer receives short term credit at 7%, with an upper limit of Rs. 3 lakh on the principal amount. The banks have been advised to waive margin/ security requirements for agricultural loans up to Rs. 50,000/-. An Expert Group has been constituted to look into the problems of agricultural indebtedness in its totality and suggest measures to provide relief to farmers across the country.

Measures are underway for revamping the Cooperative Credit Structure. To provide a safety net to the farmers, the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)—(Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana) is under implementation from Rabi 1999-2000 season.

The Government of India has recently approved a rehabilitation package for 31 suicide prone Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Kerala, involving a total amount of Rs. 16,978.69 crore.

(e) The information is being obtained and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement**Number of farmers committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra**

| Sl.No. | Name of the State | Period | No. (Based on the figures reported by the State Governments) |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 2003-04 | 393 |
| | | 2004-05 | 1126 |
| | | 2005-06 | 378 |
| | | 2006-07 (upto November) | 92 |
| | | April to October, 2006 | 80 |
| 2. | Maharashtra | 2003 | 170 |
| | | 2004 | 622 |
| | | 2005 | 577 |
| | | 2006 (upto 31.10.2006) | 1843 |
| | | April to October, 2006 | 1344 |

NOTE: For Maharashtra, the figures are the total number of suicide cases as reported by the State Government.

Availability of agricultural land

†2585. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is less availability of new land for agricultural purpose in the country whereas population of farmer community is rising continuously;

(b) whether agricultural land is being acquired on large scale throughout the country each year for non-agricultural purpose;

(c) if so, the action being taken to provide agricultural land to farmers after creation of new land to meet such shortage of land; and

(d) the details of agricultural land acquired for non-agricultural purposes during the last five years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The per capita availability of cultivable land has declined from 0.27 ha. in 1980 to 0.18 ha. in 2003 due to increase in population and diversion of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries etc. There is no systematic

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